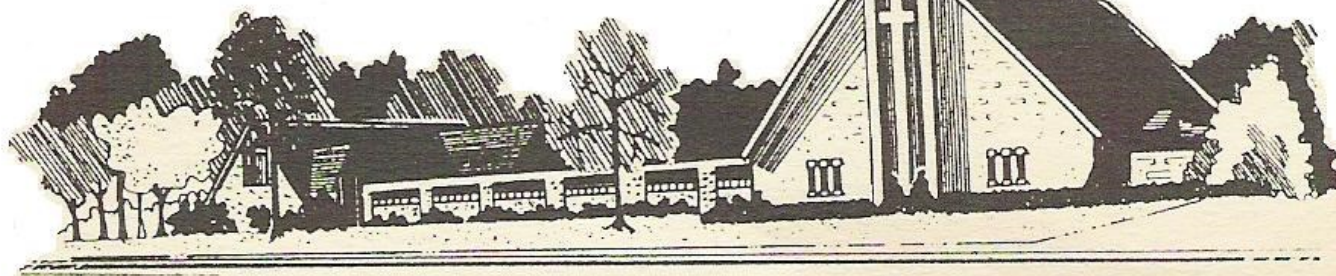
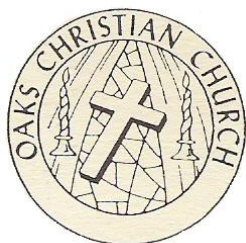


# OAKS NOTES



Oaks Christian Church is a family church that loves to share God's word, God's Love, and God's fellowship with the world. We are a church in the near inner loop that strives to be a helpful part of the community. We are about Deep Christian spirituality, a true community and a passion for Justice. We celebrate communion every Sunday service and all who believe are welcome to receive.



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## A Note from Pastor Don



### Note from Pastor Don

Don't know if you remember, but it was just about six months ago we finished our big reconstruction project on the sanctuary with all our new lights and projection system.

And now for the past several months, we've been scrambling as our education wing is being redone.

And to be honest with you, it looks fantastic! It's just been really hectic! We're juggling Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Bible Studies, and yes, even Sunday School classes. We have people meeting everywhere. But next week, everything should be finished! It just seems like every time I look up, something is either broken or being remodeled.

But all this construction is not "that" different from who we are as believers. There are so many times in our lives we've just had to totally change or "remodel" what we're doing to get a better look at the Savior. It isn't easy. It takes time and effort, just like when we redo something here at the church.

There are so many times in our lives when we realize that what we are doing is not working. And that can really be frustrating! Sometimes, they are just little things that we can tweak, like realizing we need to be more consistent in our prayer life or to encourage others more.

As these are the habitual problems in our life, which we refuse to confront, that can be the real issue! Constantly gossiping... always being negative with no hope... whatever it may be... some can be hard. And we can't change them by ourselves. We must trust God to tear down and remove what doesn't need to be there and fix us!

And when we think we have our spiritual house where it needs to be... that's when we "really" have problems, because we always need to be improving and constantly changing! Looking for ways to be better. Falling more in love each day with the One who saved us. We always need to be looking for ways to improve.

The scripture says that though the outer man decays, our inner man is being renewed day by day. But we must allow the spirit to renew us or all we will do is decay!

So while our church building is looking better day by day, it's still an older facility that is going to need constant tweaking to remain effective. I think that's what I can say about myself spiritually. I may be a little bit older, but I'm not looking too bad! The secret is remaining open to the constant change of the Holy Spirit. It's not always easy... but I trust the Builder!

In His Grip,  
Pastor Don

## AREA ASSEMBLY



"This past weekend, Frankie and I attended the Area Assemble in Huntsville. Originally, I had just planned to go so that Frankie could visit with some friends from camp. However, it was nice to be part of the induction of the new Area Minister, and I learned a few things from the council meeting. Also, the sermon and music were spectacular. What a great way to follow up Pastor Don's birthday sermon!"

-Janet Duplechain

## TOILETRY DRIVE

MANNA needs toiletries, and in order to help, Oaks will have a Toiletry Drive this month (May 11-25). Members can either bring their items to the Narthex on Sundays or to the church office Monday-Thursday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Money donations will also be accepted.

MANNA serves individuals in need, as well as entire families, so please donate items with sizes appropriate for family use. Examples of donations include:

Lotion	Toothpaste
Shampoo	Toothbrushes
Conditioner	Toilet Paper
Deodorant	Kleenex
Soap	Feminine Products
Shaving Cream	Diapers

*Thank you in advance for your support and gifts.*

## GIRL SCOUTS SERVING, HAVING FUN AT OAKS

In December, Oaks introduced you to Boy Scout Troop 879, who was excited to find a new meeting place at the church. But have you met the girls yet?

Oaks is also the home of not one, but two Girl Scout troops. They both meet on Tuesday evenings at the church, and have recently provided services to the MANNA Food Pantry and the church grounds.



Troop 24053, pictured at left, collected food donations for MANNA at the end of April. They've enjoyed other various activities this year, including cookie sales, a Father/Daughter Dance, and National Lemonade Day, in which they set up their own lemonade stands on May 4.

Troop 24053's Leader, Desire Witherspoon said she and the girls have enjoyed meeting each week at the church.

"As our girls learn and grow in Girl Scouts, it is an amazing blessing to meet at Oaks Christian Church," Witherspoon said. "Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming to us. Each month has held its own special adventure."

Troop 122003, pictured below, has been equally as busy. Along with donating food to MANNA, they took time during one of their meetings in late April to walk around the church grounds and pick up any trash they found.

Troop Leader Joy Caka said the girls have earned several new badges while meeting at Oaks, including Friendly and Helpful, Considerate and Caring, and Make the World a Better Place.

They also used the church as a venue for their Christmas party, Valentine's party, and mother/daughter tea party.

Oaks would like to thank them for their hard work and wish them a wonderful summer!





# May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	3
4 Sunday School @ 9:30; Worship @ 10:45 am	5	6 CWF @ 10 am; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30 pm	7 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	8	9 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	10
11 Sunday School @ 9:30; Worship @ 10:45 am; <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13 Prayer Circle @ 9:30 am; CWF @ 10 am; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30 pm	14 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	15	16 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	17 Church Work Day @ 10 am
18 Sunday School @ 9:30; Worship @ 10:45 am; Board Meeting ; Dialysis Support Group @ 2 pm; MANNA Luncheon @ 4	19 Journey Jammers @ 6:30-9:30 pm	20 CWF Kemah/San Leon Trip @ 10 am; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30 pm	21 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	22	23 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	24 CMF Breakfast @ 8 am; Free Community Lunch @ 12-2 pm
25 Sunday School @ 9:30; Worship @ 10:45 am	26	27 No CWF; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30 pm	28 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	29 CWF General Meeting @ 6 pm	30 Renovada Youth Meeting @ 7-9 pm Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	31



## Happy May Birthdays!

5.4 Pastor Don Joseph

5.13 Sara Simons

5.29 Glenn Doremus

## Happy May Anniversary!

5.30 Brent and Bethany Yates



## JOURNEY JAMMERS

Many of you may have heard Reverend Karl Decker preach on Sundays when Pastor Don is absent.

Decker does more than preach, though. He is also a musician, and now, he would like to extend an invitation to other musicians at Oaks to perform and pray with him once a month as part of the "Journey Jammers Music Practice."

The group meets every third Monday of the month from 6:30-9:30 PM in the Oaks Sanctuary.

They come together to pray and share with one another, as well as practice and play contemporary music, which is used at most Fourth Day Retreats including Journey to Damascus, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Cursillo, Kairos, and others. This is a great time for Christian musicians and singers (both amateur and pro) to come together and fellowship with others.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Karl Decker at [revkarldecker@gmail.com](mailto:revkarldecker@gmail.com) for more information.



## From the Treasurer - Dorene Drake

Operating Account '13	2014 JANUARY	2014 FEBRUARY	2014 MARCH
Deposits	\$9,293.37	\$8,589.16	\$10,914.71
Disbursements	\$(10,908.44)	\$(9,730.42)	\$9,517.69
Difference	\$(1,615.07)	\$(1,141.26)	\$1,397.02

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## EASTER FUN AT THE OAKS

